



THE HORSESHOE

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 4

www.nytos.org

JULY-AUGUST 2010

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.....NEW YORK THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.

(N.Y. CHAPTER ATOS)

Open Console
CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL
3/15 Mighty Austin-Morton
Theatre Pipe Organ
Mineola, NY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2010
12 Noon until 3:00 p.m.
--Refreshments--

Thanks to the hospitality of Brother Rob Lahey and the Chaminade High School administration, NYTOS members and guests are once again invited to enjoy a summer Saturday of theatre organ music on Long Island. You will have an opportunity to play and enjoy Chaminade's mighty 3/15 Austin-Morton theatre pipe organ (enhanced with a bit of Wurlitzer and Barton), and meet and chat with old and new friends over coffee and other light refreshments. Even if you are not a player, you can still enjoy the open console performances of some of our talented NYTOS members.

The Chaminade Austin-Morton is currently the only theatre pipe organ playing in a public performance venue on Long Island. This fine instrument started out during the 1920's as a 3-manual Austin (Opus 1569) in the Queens Village Theatre before being installed in its present home at Chaminade High School in 1979. Since then Brother Rob and his crew have worked constantly to upgrade and improve this fine instrument over the years. Those interested in the technical end of things will also have a chance to take a look into the pipe chambers.

So, come to Mineola and bring along family and friends for an afternoon of theatre organ music and fun. And, if you play, remember to bring along your music. Directions are enclosed. Hope to see you at Chaminade. A silent film and concert

program are also being planned for Chaminade in the fall; dates, artists and other details to be announced.

* * * * *

MEMBERS ENJOY OPEN CONSOLE AND CHAPLIN FESTIVAL AT THE LAFAYETTE

Several Chapter members and guests gathered at the Lafayette Theatre in Suffern on May 28 to play and enjoy open console on our beautiful Ben Hall Memorial 2/11 Mighty Wurlitzer. Following open console we were invited by Nelson Page to remain for the Big Screen Classics film show, "A Charlie Chaplin Festival," four Chaplin silent shorts accompanied by organist Jeff Barker. As the doors opened to the general public, and staff organist Earle Seely played the house in, it was encouraging to see the theatre fill with an audience of several hundred patrons of all ages. Their laughter and applause indicated that they truly enjoyed the films and Jeff's excellent performance. Thanks to Nelson Page for his gracious hospitality, and also to organ crew chief, Bob Miloche assisted by Don Hayek for preparing the Wurlitzer for this special show.

* * * * *

RALPH RINGSTAD, JR. PUTS NYMA MOLLER THROUGH ITS PACES AT "GRAND FINALE" **--Academy receives funding to continue operating--**

Ralph Ringstad, Jr. played what had been billed as the "Grand Finale" concert on the New York Military Academy 4/33 Mighty Moller on Sunday, June 6, after the Academy's board had announced in April that the school would discontinue operations due to financial and enrollment problems following its one hundred twenty-first graduation on June 5. Ralph's outstanding performance featured selections of music by three famous NYMA alumni musicians and composers, Les Brown, Johnny Mandel, and Stephen Sondheim, as well as military marches, and popular songs from 1927 and 1928, the years that

the organ was installed and dedicated. Ralph closed the concert very appropriately with "Thanks for the Memory," a song associated with the Les Brown band. Following a well deserved standing ovation, Ralph returned to the console and played Irving Berlin's "The Song Is Ended, but the Melody Lingers On," a lush, beautifully rendered arrangement which brought tears to the eyes of many, especially the alumni in the audience. Thank-you to the Academy administration for their support of this concert, and the many concerts that we have presented over the past forty years. Thanks also to Calvin Fenton, Barry Currie and Lowell Sanders for their production assistance. And, thanks to the efforts of organ curator Tom Stehle assisted by Lowell Sanders, the big Moller was in fine tune and performed flawlessly. In mid-July, control of the Academy was transferred to a new Board of Trustees, who had succeeded in raising the \$5.2 million needed to re-open the school for the 2010-11 academic year, and hopefully well into the future.

* * * * *

OTHER NEWS AND UP-COMING EVENTS

MIDDLETOWN CLASSIC FILM SERIES: The *Classics By Acclaim* film series continues for its second year at the Middletown Paramount Theatre with the 1961 musical "*West Side Story*" on **Sat., August 28 at 7:30 p.m.** House organist Rolf Krohn will be at our 3/12 Mighty Wurlitzer to play the house in starting thirty minutes before each show. The other films in the series include Hitchcock's "*Rear Window*" on **Sat., Sept. 18 at 7:30;** "*The Wizard of Oz*", **Sat., Sept. 25 at 2:00;** "*Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein*", **Sat., Oct. 9 at 7:30.** The series will again include the 1926 silent horror classic, "*Phantom of the Opera*" accompanied by **Bernie Anderson** at our Mighty Wurlitzer on **Friday, Oct. 29 at 7:30,** and will conclude on **Sat., Nov. 20 at 7:30,** with the 1942 musical "*Holiday Inn*" starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. All the films are 35mm prints. Nelson Page has been assisting the Paramount management in organizing the movie series. Also, we are planning to hold our traditional fall **open console and mini-concert** at the Paramount on **September 18;** **John Baratta** mini-concert at 2:00; details in the next *Horseshoe*.

LAFAYETTE THEATRE—Enjoy the NYTOS 2/11 Mighty Wurlitzer played before shows on Friday evenings by organist Jeff Barker and Saturdays by Earle Seely. Check with theatre for schedule. 845-369-8234, or www.bigscreenclassics.com. Note that the Lafayette will be closed for several weeks in September for additional restoration of the historic theatre's ornate ceiling.

SUNDAY, AUG. 15, 2:00 p.m. -- JOHN BARATTA accompanying 1928 Keaton silent, "Steamboat Bill, Jr.", Grand Theatre, East Greenville, PA., 2/7 Marr & Colton. \$15. Info: www.thegrandtheater.org.

SAT. OCT. 2, 7:30 P.M.—CHRIS ELLIOTT accompanying "The Mark of Zorro" starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. **Loew's**

Jersey, 4/23 Wonder Morton, Journal Square, Jersey City, NJ. GSTOS. \$10. www.gstos.org; 732-741-4045.

SAT. OCT 2, 7:00 p.m. – TONY FENELON concert. **Dickinson High School**, Wilmington, DE. 3/66 Kimball. 302-995-5630. DTOS. www.dtoskimball.org. \$12 advance; \$14 at the door.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Christopher Wynkoop, Walden, NY.

ATOS Young Organist Summer Camp: Once again NYTOS provided a scholarship to pay the tuition for Andrew Van Varick to attend the camp in Phoenix, AZ. Andrew, who is 13 and is a student of John Baratta, has attended the program for four years. This year's teaching staff included Donna Parker, Jonas Norwall, Jelani Eddington, Lyn Larsen and Charlie Balogh.

CLOSING CHORD: We were saddened to learn of the passing of long time member, Jim Shean, on June 10. Jim and his wife Dorothy graciously hosted NYTOS on several occasions for open console and mini-concerts on their 19 rank Wurlitzer in their home Levittown, PA. We extend our condolences to Dorothy and the Shean family.

PIPES & PIZZAZZ—Check out John Vanderlee's weekly theatre organ radio show from Vassar College, WVKR 91.3 FM, every Monday from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

* * * * *

DIRECTIONS TO CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL SAVILLE ROAD AND JACKSON AVE. MINEOLA

The Chaminade High School Auditorium is located at the corner of Saville Rd. and Jackson Ave. off Jericho Turnpike. Take the Long Island Expressway (I-495) to Exit 35 (Shelter Rock Rd.) or take the Northern State Parkway to Shelter Rock Rd. Proceed south on Shelter Rock Rd. to Herricks Rd. Turn right on to Herricks Rd (at the school and Jewish Community Center—near the water tower) and continue south to Jericho Turnpike. Turn left on to Jericho Turnpike and proceed a short distance (3 traffic lights) to Saville Rd. Turn right on to Saville Rd. The auditorium is at the end of the block on the right directly across from the public school. There is ample parking on the street nearby. Long Island Railroad service is available to Mineola station (about a 12 minute walk to Chaminade). Walk north from the station (across the tracks) on Mineola Blvd. to Jackson Ave. Then turn left and walk west along to Jackson Ave. to Chaminade High School. Mineola is a major station and taxi service is also available.

* * * * *

Thomas J. Stehle, Secretary/Editor
178 Dunn Drive
Montgomery, NY 12549
845-457-5393; tjskinura@aol.com